

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

 adding an initiation module to a BIOS firmware of a computing system having an extensible firmware architecture, the BIOS firmware having a plurality of initiation modules with initiation modules required for the recovery of the computing system designated as recovery initiation modules and other initiation modules designated as non-recovery modules;

 automatically evaluating the initiation module; and

 designating the initiation module as a recovery initiation module if it is determined that the initiation module is required for recovery of the computing system.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

 designating the initiation module as a recovery initiation module if it is determined that a recovery initiation module depends upon the initiation module.

3. The method of claim 2 further comprising:

 executing only recovery initiation modules in the event of a recovery restart.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein the initiation module is an updated recovery

initiation module added to the BIOS firmware to replace an outdated recovery initiation module.

5. The method of claim 4 further comprising:
- automatically evaluating all recovery initiation modules;
- removing the recovery initiation module designation from all initiation modules
- designated as recovery initiation modules solely due to dependence thereon by the
- outdated recovery initiation module.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the recovery initiation modules are rendered unalterable.
7. The method of claim 6 wherein the recovery initiation modules reside in a fault-tolerant firmware volume.
8. The method of claim 7 wherein the recovery initiation modules are contained in a 64 kilobyte block of code.
9. The method of claim 1 wherein recovery of the computing system is necessitated by an event selected from the group consisting of power failure, hardware failure, and security error.
10. A machine-readable medium that provides executable instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform a method, the method comprising:

adding an initiation module to a BIOS firmware of a computing system having an extensible firmware architecture, the BIOS firmware having a plurality of initiation modules with initiation modules required for the recovery of the computing system designated as recovery initiation modules and other initiation modules designated as non-recovery modules;

automatically evaluating the initiation module; and

designating the initiation module as a recovery initiation module if it is

determined that the initiation module is required for recovery of the computing system.

11. The machine-readable medium of claim 10 wherein the method further comprises:

designating the initiation module as a recovery initiation module if it is

determined that a recovery initiation module depends upon the initiation module.

12. The machine-readable medium of claim 10 wherein the method further comprises

executing only recovery initiation modules in the event of a recovery restart.

13. The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the initiation module is an

updated recovery initiation module added to the BIOS firmware to replace an outdated

recovery initiation module.

14. The machine-readable medium of claim 13 wherein the method further comprises:

automatically evaluating all recovery initiation modules;

removing the recovery initiation module designation from all initiation modules designated as recovery initiation modules solely due to dependence thereon by the outdated recovery initiation module.

15. The machine-readable medium of claim 10 wherein the recovery initiation modules are rendered unalterable.

16. The machine-readable medium of claim 15 wherein the recovery initiation modules reside in a fault-tolerant firmware volume.

17. The machine-readable medium of claim 16 wherein the recovery initiation modules are contained in a 64 kilobyte block of code.

18. The machine-readable medium of claim 10 wherein recovery of the computing system is necessitated by an event selected from the group consisting of power failure, hardware failure, and security error.

19. An apparatus comprising:

a computing system having an extensible firmware architecture, the BIOS firmware of the computing system having a plurality of initiation modules with initiation modules required for the recovery of the computing system designated as recovery initiation modules and other initiation modules designated as non-recovery modules; and

a firmware update utility to automatically evaluate the initiation module and designating the initiation module as a recovery initiation module if it is determined that the initiation module is required for recovery of the computing system.

20. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the initiation module is designated as a recovery initiation module if it is determined that a recovery initiation module depends upon the initiation module.

21. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein only recovery initiation modules are executed in the event of a recovery restart.

22. The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the initiation module is an updated recovery initiation module added to the BIOS firmware to replace an outdated recovery initiation module.

23. The apparatus of claim 21 wherein all recovery initiation modules are automatically evaluated such that if the designation as a recovery initiation module is solely due to dependence thereon by the outdated recovery initiation module, the recovery initiation module designation is removed.

24. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the recovery initiation modules are rendered unalterable.

25. The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the recovery initiation modules reside in a fault-tolerant firmware volume.

26. The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the recovery initiation modules are contained in a 64 kilobyte block of code.

27. The apparatus of claim 19 wherein recovery of the computing system is necessitated by an event selected from the group consisting of power failure, hardware failure, and security error.